

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER OF THE  
THUNDER BAY ATARI ST  
ENTHUSIASTS

# GOOD TASTE

GOOD TASTE

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 1988



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- IMG SCAN AND IMAGE SCANNERS FOR THE ATARI ST.
- ATARI AT COMDEX.
- CD ROM AND MORE.



## SCANNERS AND IMG SCAN

Scanners are available for other high level computers such as the Apple McIntosh and IBM. Now they are also available for the Atari ST.

A scanner is a device which will scan any printed matter and make a digitized image of the page. In the case of the Atari ST you can save these images in either Degas or Neochrome format where they can be further modified or imported into desktop publishing as well as other types of programs.

I have seen ads for 3 scanners for the ST in recent month. The high end is represented by the ST Scan which is a stand alone model by Navarone Industries and selling for \$1,239.00 USA funds.

The other 2 scanners are devices which are attached to your dot matrix printer head and thus are somewhat less expensive. In this category we have ST Pictascan \$149.00 USA available from E. Arthur Brown Company and the Img Scan made by Seymour-Radix with a list price of \$99.00 USA.

With my interest in desktop publishing these scanners were also of natural interest to me. I was able to purchase the Img Scan from Computer Games+ for \$79.00 USA a good saving off the list price, the following will be a review of this product.

Img Scan provides an inexpensive way to transfer images from paper into your computer. The package consists of a circuit board that plugs into the cartridge slot with two fiber-optic cables. The cables attach to infra-red emitters on the board, and are joined together at the other end, which you tape to the printhead.

Software to run with the cartridge is provided on a disk. There are programs provided for both monochrome and color systems. But the program provided for the color system seems to give much better results.

You place your copy (photocopy is recommended) into the printer. Aim your fiber-optic cables at a white area of the image and adjust the distance between the cable and the paper until the software gives you a reading between 15 and 10 on the sensitivity scale. Position your paper so that as much of the image as you want is scanned and select scan from the menu, it's about as simple as that.

The software gives you a lot of control. It will not scan color, but you can adjust the color scale to match the colors of the scanned image to produce a good color reproduction. The software gives you great control over grey scaling (up to 255 increments). The software also gives you control over the size of the image coming in, and you can aim the scanner to a particular area of the original copy.

I used the img scan with my Star SG-10 printer. Once I adjusted the sensitivity levels to low enough levels and adjusted the grey scaling to an acceptable level I got pretty good results. I have used

my images with degas and publishing partner. The program also allows you to save your images in raw form for further manipulation with the provided software.

On the cover is an example of an img image which was provided on the disk, the other example is an image of David Letterman that I scanned myself.

In conclusion I think that Seymour-Radix has made a good product at a very good price. The results printed out on my dot matrix printer are acceptable and better results could be expected from a Laser printer. Anyone interested in graphics or desktop publishing could consider this product an asset.

Products and Companies mentioned in this article:

ST Scan- Navarone Industries, Inc. 1043 Stierlin Rd., Suite 201 Mountain View, CA 94040 (price \$1239.00 USA)

ST Picta Scan- E. Arthur Brown Company, 3404 Pawnee Drive, Alexandria, MN 56308 Phone: (612)762-8847 (price \$149.00 USA)

Img Scan- Seymour-Radix, Box 166055, Irving, TX 75016 (price \$99.00 USA) or \$79.00 from Computer Games+, Box 6144, Orange, CA 92667 phone: (714)639-8189.

-Ed Gertuga



### NEXT MEETING

Thursday Jan. 21st 7:30 P.M.

Confederation College  
Aircraft Maintenance Hangar  
Thunder Bay Airport

SEE:

-FAST BASIC

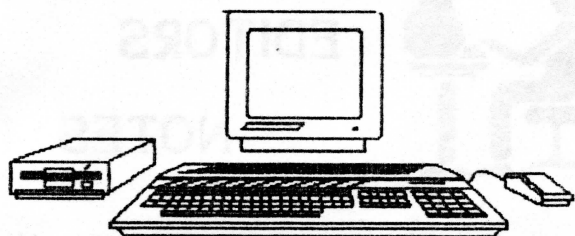
-FLIGHT SIMULATOR

-DISK OF THE MONTH

and

much

more....



## PRESS RELEASE:

### OVERVIEW OF COMDEX 1987 ATARI BOOTH CONNECTIVITY, SOLUTIONS, AND TECHNOLOGY: ATARI ANNOUNCES NEW PRODUCTS AT COMDEX

(Las Vegas, NV -- Comdex Fall 87)... In a series of major product introductions, Atari Corporation emerges as a maker of a complete line of high-performance, low-cost solutions for the business world.

New technology is showcased by Abaq, an ultra-high performance workstation with blazing speed and dazzling graphics. The Abaq, based on a sophisticated "transputer" chip, runs more than 10 times faster than a PC/AT technology and more than 5 times faster than the 68020 with math processor. The parallel processing capability of Abaq lets a single system multiply its processing power by adding extra transputer chips.

Atari unveiled its new CD player capable of reading CD-ROM disks and of playing musical CD disks. The CD-Rom is supported by a Mega and ST-compatible DMA interface, and will retail in early 1988 for under \$600(USA).

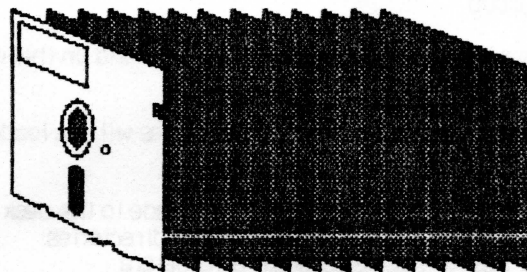
Atari's connectivity answer is a LAN which is compatible with the NETBIOS standard used by IBM and Novell. It communicates data at 1 Megabit-per-second over Appletalk. Atari is planning to manufacture PromiseLAN adapters for the Mega, ST, and PC computer lines.

The Atari Mega computers are showcased with a variety of solid business solutions. Desktop publishing represented by both the Atari SLM804 Laser Printer and by G.O. Graphics, who are porting their Deskset program (CompuGraphics compatible) which Atari will market. Word Perfect is displaying the recently shipped Word Perfect ST and Atari is displaying Microsoft Write. A group of vendors are appealing to VARs with vertical packages running under the IDRIS multi-user multi-tasking operating system. Several new high-end CAD packages are on display including Foresight's Drafix 1.

Atari expanded its PC-compatible offerings by adding two new models, the PC2 (PC XT compatible) and PC4 (PC AT compatible), both with EGA graphics, high clock speeds, and low price tags. A variation of the PC3 will operate in VGA graphics mode as well. The PC2 and PC4 will be offered with 3.5" or 5.25" floppy disks and with hard disks. These new models join the PC1 which at \$799(USA) is a basic 512k PC XT compatible, suitable for use as a LAN workstation and for standalone personal computing. The PC includes XT-compatible slots, while the PC4's slots are PC AT compatible.

"We offer complete systems for the office," said Atari president Sam Tramiel. "I can see Atari Mega computers with laser printers as desktop publishing stations exchanging data with a satellite group of PC's as LAN stations. An entire office environment can be created. The PC, the Macintosh, and the Atari computers co-exist. Each can do the things they do best."

--Atari Staff



---[ System EX-10 Canada ]--- Atari Bulletin File # 4

## CD-Drive for the ST :

### News we hope is true!

The exciting announcement for this month without doubt goes to a small but determined company from England, called "British Uniaxal Lasers Ltd".

They recently announced a new laser operated CD drive that will revolutionize mass storage on the ST. Their device is based on the technology of the 5-1/2" music CD, but is modified to read/write data in an incredible 500 TERRABYTES per disk.

The player uses LPVEPL technology. (Low Powered Emission Polarized Laser) The device works in conjunction with a new CD disk which consists of a conventional reflective aluminum film mirror coated with a unique fine liquid crystal-derived chemical. The CD player writes to the disk by subjecting it to an increased intensity polarised beam which generates a small electrical impulse, thus aligning the fine reflection barrier particles inside the disc sandwich.

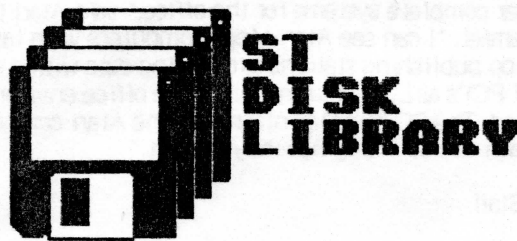
The data can then be read back by aiming a low intensity counter polarised beam at the disc, which does not alter the particles. The beam is reflected if it passes through a non aligned LC particle. Data is transferred at the rate of 10 megabits per second, and it is expected that newer devices to be manufactured in the next year or so will far exceed those specifications.

As you can imagine, the design, and construction of the disc and drive are closely guarded secrets. The device is now working satisfactorily on the ST, as well as the IBM, and should be available for marketing sometime this fall.

Each disk will hold up to 500 terrabytes of information. The disks will cost about \$10.00 each, and the player should sell for around \$400.00.

(Downloaded from System EX10)





January's disk of the month is BEST ST ACE.86. This disk comes from the Ace users group of Eugene Oregon, which is the original Atari users group.

Following is a list of programs which can be found on this disk of the month.

accload.prg: lets you choose which accessories will be loaded at boot up.  
 breakout.acc: a pong style game.  
 desktop.inf: Like the modifications we've made to the desktop?  
 dirtree.tos: allow you to read and print disk directories.  
 diskmgr.acc: has format, free space, create/delete folder, copy/delete folder, and rename.  
 gclock.doc:  
 gclock.prg: puts a real time digital clock on the top right of screen.  
 july4th.prg: who said you have to wait in the rain to enjoy fireworks.  
 kleido.prg: a kleidoscope on your screen.  
 megaroid.prg: save your space ship from asteroids and attacking space ships.  
 progcalc.acc: our best calculator even programmers can use it.  
 reversi.acc: play against the computer to capture the most spaces.  
 scrsvr.prg: allows you to turn the screen off until keystroke.  
 verify.prg: allows you to turn write verification on/off.  
 yahtzee.prg: one player graphic and color yahtzee game.  
 AUTO: autodate.prg: automatically updates file date and time.  
 macmenu.prg: stops you from accidentally pulling down boxes at the top of the screen push the right mouse button to get past the menu line.  
 RAMDISK: we have included the updated version of the harris ramdisk as it can now be used on both floppy disks and hard disk!  
 This ramdisk survives system reset and all system reset and all resolution changes. Files included are rm.txt, rm108.prg, rm174.prg, rm370.prg, rm436.prg, rm501.prg, rm567.prg, rm632.prg, and rm698.prg.  
 DCCOPY: contains the original dcopy program and doc.  
 FORMAT: format.prg: formats a disk in multiple sectors and sizes from 349k to 399k single sided or to 798k double sided. folder includes doc.  
 DALEKS.dalek.doc; dalek.prg: a graphic chase game.  
 PCOMMAND: pcommand.prg: our best shell program for the ST. folder includes doc file etc.

This disk will be available at the next meeting for \$4.00 including the disk or \$2.00 member supplies the disk. Also we'll have a short demo of the above disk

Ed Gertuga



## EDITORS NOTES

With the start of the new year things are looking good for Atari and also for us as Atari ST users. As you see in Atari's press release they are planning to bring out many new products in the future. The most powerful seems to be the Abaq transputer requiring a 4 meg Atari ST to run and can hold as many as 13 parallel processors. Mike Dunn of the Ace users group writes "The transputer is not something out of Star Trek, but a parallel processing system to speed up computers to super speeds and power.

It comes with 4 meg of memory, expandable to 64 meg, and a display of 1280 by 960 with 16 colors or 512 by 480 with 1 million shades simultaneously." Helios, a Unix like multiuser multitasking operating system is included in the package for about \$5000(USA)

The Abaq may be over kill for most home users but it does show the great potential of the ST machines.

Also from Ace comes word that the 1040ST's now shipping have a new motherboard that has room for a blitter chip, but not the socket, and jumpers for 1-meg chips to expand the memory when prices of chips become reasonable.

Moving over to desktop publishing: In a recent talk with the makers of Publishing partner they informed me that they will be bringing out Publishing Partner Professional later this year. This program will have more features and be an improvement over the original.

Migraph the makers of Easy Draw are now selling an improved version with the supercharger a product which allows you to incorporate bit mapped images from degas etc. Also in a phone call to Migraph they informed me that they may be coming out with a full fledged desktop publishing program based on Easy Draw. This should be good news to users of dot matrix printers because Easy Draw gives the best dot matrix print out of text I've seen from any program on any computer.

Wordup a word processor that incorporates many desktop publishing features such as various fonts in various sizes and the ability to import graphics is also due out this year.

Other desktop publishing programs due out this year are GFA Publisher, Publisher ST, and Atari Desktop.

With the availability of the Mega ST, Atari SLM804 Laser Printer, and these various desktop publishing programs the Atari ST could become a big name in desktop publishing.

Due to deadline considerations Roy Stokes column THE ADVENTURE CORNER could not be included in this issue, but will be back in February's GOOD TASTE.

At our January 21st meeting Doug Stanky will be demonstrating FLIGHT SIMULATOR and FAST BASIC. We will also have our usual discussions and some other demos. I hope to see you all there.

Ed Gertuga

GOOD TASTE is published monthly by T.A.S.T.E.-The Thunder Bay Atari ST Enthusiasts. Issues are mailed to all members in good standing. Memberships are \$25.00 per year, \$15.00 for Students. Back issues of GOOD TASTE can be obtained for \$1.00 per issue.

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent or reflect the opinions of GOOD TASTE, or our user group which is not affiliated in any way with Atari.

In this issue we've switched over from FLEET STREET PUBLISHER and have used PUBLISHINGPARTNER. The text on the cover is in the hudson font in various font sizes. The bulk of the remaining text is Times font at 9 points

Editor- Ed Gertuga